United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1411
10 June 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council requests Secretary-General to report on options for possible deployment of international observers to monitor borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, "giving priority" to that country's border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ Continued presence of Peace-keeping Force on Cyprus "indispensable", acccrding to Secretary-General's report; recommends its extension for further period of six months, until 15 December 1993; urges both parties to exercise "maximum restraint".

+ Some $70 million pledged for humanitarian assistance in Mozambique at Maputo follow-up to Rome Donors' Conference; total pledge is $520 million out of $560 million required.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs convenes special meetings on humanitarian assistance for Armenia and Azerbaijan today and tomorrow in Geneva.

+ UNDP Administrator says agency has insufficient funds to maintain credibility; says Governing Council must safeguard support for Africa.

+ World Food Programme extends relief operations for refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

* * *

The Security Council today requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council "as soon as possible" on options for the possible deployment of international observers to monitor effectively the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, giving priority to the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 838 (1993).

Observers would be drawn from the United Nations, and, if appropriate, from Member States acting nationally or through regional organizations, according to the resolution. Priority would be given to Bosnia and

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Herzegovina's border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Council invited the Secretary-General to immediately contact Member States to ensure the availability of any relevant material derived from aerial surveillance and to report thereon to it.

The resolution reaffirmed Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the Council's responsibility in that regard, and reiterated demands in previous resolutions that interference from outside the Republic cease immediately. The Council recalled its demand in resolution 819 (1993) that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia immediately cease the supply of military arms and equipment to Bosnian Serb paramilitary units.

* * *

The continued presence of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) remains indispensable to achieve the objectives set by the Security Council. Therefore, the Council should extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further six-month period, that is until 15 December 1993, has recommended Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a report on UNFICYP.

The report, dated 9 June, also stresses that the decision made by the Council on 27 May to treat "those costs of the Force which are not covered by voluntary contributions as expenses of the Organization" not only assures financial stability for the Force, but also acknowledges the importance of voluntary contributions for some peace-keeping operations, particularly from the beneficiaries of longer-term operations. This decision will put the financing of UNFICYP on an equitable and sound basis, which should resolve the difficulties the Force has experienced in retaining troop contributors, writes the Secretary-General.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali urges both sides on the island to exercise maximum restraint, and extend without delay the 1989 unmanning agreement to all parts of the buffer zone where their forces remain in close proximity to each other.

The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to the Governments contributing troops and civilian police to UNFICYP for their steadfast support to "this most important peace-keeping operation" of the United Nations and thanks the Governments that have made voluntary contributions towards the financing of the Force.

* * *

Some $70 million has been pledged for humanitarian assistance in Mozambique at a follow-up meeting to the Rome Donors' Conference in Maputo held on 8 and 9 June, according to a United Nations spokesman today.

The official document for the meeting, "Consolidated Humanitarian Assistance Programme for 1993-1994", was prepared by the Office for

(more)

Humanitarian Assistance Coordination, part of the United Nation Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The programme requires an estimated $560 million, and a total of $520 million has now been pledged.

The meeting was chaired by Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and Carmelo Azzara, Italy's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. The opening session was addressed by representatives of the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO).

* * *

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson has convened special meetings on humanitarian assistance for Armenia and Azerbaijan to be held in Geneva on 10 and 11 June. The meetings will be chaired by Gerald Hinteregger, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe.

The 10 June meeting will consider an inter-agency humanitarian programme to cover humanitarian needs in Armenia from July 1993 to March 1994. Earthquakes and armed conflict have displaced some 330,000 people in the country. The programme will provide food aid, shelter and health care to the most vulnerable people at an estimated cost of $22.5 million. The 11 June meeting will consider a similar programme for Azerbaijan, where there are more than 500,000 refugees and displaced people. The programme will provide an estimated $12.5 million worth of aid for one year beginning in July 1993.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) does not have sufficient funds to maintain its credibility, and is in danger of losing its universal coverage, UNDP Administrator William Draper said today. Responding to a debate on his annual report for 1992, Mr. Draper told the UNDP Governing Council that it must particularly safeguard the provision of support to Africa.

Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Development Support and Management Services, told the Governing Council that the Office for Project Services (OPS), which was to be transferred from UNDP to the Secretariat, would remain a distinct semi-autonomous entity in his Department.

The 48-member Governing Council is holding its fortieth session at Headquarters through 18 June.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) yesterday decided to extend its refugee feeding operations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

In Ethiopia, the WFP will extend a project to feed some 200,000 Somali and Sudanese refugees by 18 months, at a total cost of $33 million. The

(more)

refugees have fled civil strife and natural disasters in their own countries. The WFP operation in Kenya will be extended in Kenya by 15 months to aid 310,000 refugees from Somalia, 22,000 from Sudan and 17,000 from Ethiopia, at a cost of $47 million.

In Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone WFP has extended its assistance to 2 million refugees and displaced people by one year at a cost of $81 million for 1993-1994. The extension is needed because of civil strife in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and because of declining prospects for the repatriation of refugees in the coming year.

* *** *